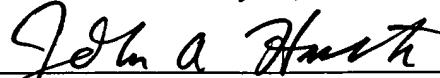




Appl. Ser. No.: 09/621,788  
Atty. Docket No.: 12707-P03

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2005.

  
John A. Hamilton  
Reg. No. 48,946

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Daniele CASALINI                      Examiner: C. M. KEEHAN  
Serial No: 09/621,788                              Group Art Unit: 1712  
Filed: July 21, 2000                                  Confirm. No.: 4984  
Title: SURFACE-COATED HARD MATERIAL, PRODUCTION METHOD FOR  
THIS, AND USE OF THE SAME

PERKINS SMITH & COHEN LLP  
One Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 854-4000

To: Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

#### Response (I) to Office Action Under Action Under 37 CFR §1.113

Sir:

This amendment is made in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 17, 20043, in the above-captioned U.S. patent application. This amendment is accompanied by a petition for a two-month extension of time and a check in the amount of \$450.00 covering the associated fees for the extension. Any other fees required for consideration of this amendment are authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-2410, Order No. 12707-P03.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 11 are currently pending in the application. Through amendments and the Remarks that follow, the rejections of the claims are addressed and overcome.

**Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.**

**Remarks begin on page 4.**